

Application No. 10/067,947

Reply to Office Action of March 2, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 2, 2004.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this Application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9-12 are amended by the present Amendment.

Claims 7 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Xia (U.S. Patent No. 6,670,046, hereinafter "Xia"). Claims 1, 2, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaeffer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,843,586) in view of Xia. Claims 5, 6, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,126,400) in view of Xia. Claims 3, 4, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ai (U.S. Patent No. 6,152,694) in view of Xia.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on March 24, 2004. During the interview, Amendments to the claims as herein presented were proposed, and arguments as hereinafter developed were presented. As discussed in Applicants' specification, conventional thermal protective layers have several problems, including deterioration caused by peeling off due to exposure of edges to hot gas erosion.¹ The thin thermal layer 8 of Xia is only applied to the corners of the turbine ring and no suggestion or motivation was disclosed to replace the thick abradable layer 6 by the thermal layer 8.² One of the features of the instant invention, among others, is the minimization and/or elimination of direct impact of high-temperature combustion gases to the undercoat. Based at least on these facts, an agreement was reached during the personal interview that, as noted in the interview summary (form PTO 413), "the claims will be

¹ See, for example, specification, page 3, line 6 – page 4, line 7.

² See, for example, Xia, col. 3, lines 47-59.

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amended to recite the limitation of the coating covering substantially the gas flow path surface of the turbine components to overcome the prior art."

Independent Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9-12 have been amended to recite the subject matter agreed upon during the interview. In view of the results of the personal interview and the present amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-summarized anticipation and obviousness rejections are now moot. Their withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Based at least on the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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